

**From:** Ross Rannells  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Over the past 12 years Microsoft has done everything it could both legally and illegally to control the desktop computer market. They have stolen software from companies, used their monopolist position to put companies out of business and eliminate competitive software. They have used the courts to put companies out of business that have won court cases against them. They have significantly stifled development of new software and hardware. They have even managed to bankrupt a company by declaring they were developing a competitive product that they never released, which is why there is no longer a light pen interface in DOS/Windows even though they were on the market in the early 1990.

The only software product to increase over time in the entire computer industry are those produced by Microsoft. Every other company, whether they produce hardware or software, managed to increase performance while dropping prices. Today Windows takes longer to boot, is less stable and the root cause for every major computer virus outbreak since 1990. Microsoft completely disregards their clients and computer security has led to a state of complete paranoia over computer system security. Microsoft has managed to ignore the cries for more secure and more stable Operating Systems and system level software due to their monopolist position in the market.

Currently the US leads the world in computer technology, that will not continue if Microsoft is allowed to keep in its monopolist position in the computer industry. The US has already fallen behind in wireless web and cell phone technology due to Microsoft's influence over new development environments. In many European and Asian countries the development of Linux and other OS's is starting. Sooner or later someone will hit on the right combination of price, features and stability. Then the US will be toppled off the top position in the computer industry.

Microsoft must be dealt with now. They need severe penalties and limitations put on their ability to control the computer market. Forcing them to divest of their hardware production division, their game console division, their communications holding, and by putting a wall between the OS and other software development divisions will go a long way to reinvigorating the computer industry in the United States. Additionally, making them publish the prices the OEM's pay for the OS and other software as well as eliminating the restrictions on OEM distributing other OSes would also be needed. Over the past couple years we've seen Be, NeXT and IBM eliminated from the desktop OS market even though they had superior products and were less expensive. Microsoft's exclusive agreements with OEM that limited the OEM capability to sell other systems made it impossible for the other companies to have a chance.

Microsoft was found guilty of monopolist practices and that conviction was unanimously upheld by an appeals court. Why are you allowing Microsoft to dictate the terms of the settlement. Their powers need to be limited and their abuses eliminated. If not the US will no longer be able to control the computer industry.

Ross Rannells  
Computer Technology Professor  
Purdue University